

It is amazing to me when you look at this legislation what went on. A middle-of-the-night vote, twisting arms, bribing Members of Congress, it looks like, allegations are being made at this point, and no choices at all because you are forced essentially into an HMO. And for what? A Medicare prescription drug benefit that is almost completely useless because, as we have said before, you would have to spend so much money out of pocket, probably over \$4,000 out of pocket in order to get \$5,000 worth of coverage.

We do not even know what the premium is going to be. The premium for the drug benefit could be \$85, \$100 a month for all we know. And you are going to have a \$275 deductible or perhaps a higher deductible. You are only going to get coverage up to something like \$2,000 or so and after that you are going to have to pay out of pocket even though you are continuing to pay the premiums, up to \$5,000. It does not even go into effect until 2006. No cost containment whatsoever. It is just amazing. We have got to continue to point out the bad aspects of this bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: In this season of expectation and winter surprises, the words of the prophet Baruch cut through the ages and blanket the earth:

"My people, take off your robe of mourning and lament; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: Wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, show forth the glory of the Lord's eternal name: For God will show all the earth your splendor."

Lord our God, be with the Congress of the United States today. May its work prove to all, You guide Your people always and are present to their deepest needs. By the lasting effects of decisions made here, Your splendor, as our judge, will be revealed.

For You, the Lord, will lead this Nation in joy and fulfillment. By the light of Your glory, You will befriend us with mercy and justice now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3633

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3633.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 26, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 26, 2003 at 10:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1437.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1813.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3287.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3348.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 80.

That the Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 459.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule 1, Speaker pro tempore THORNBERRY signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution on Monday, December 1, 2003:

H.R. 1437, to improve the United States Code;

H.R. 1813, to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2622, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3287, to award Congressional Gold Medals posthumously on behalf of Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, Harry and Eliza Briggs, and Levi Pearson in recognition of their contributions to the Nation as pioneers in the effort to desegregate public schools that led directly to the landmark desegregation case of *Brown et al. v. The Board of Education of Topeka et al.*;

H.R. 3348, to reauthorize the ban on undetectable firearms;

H.J. Res. 80, appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress;

S. 459, to ensure that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty shall be presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public safety officer survivor benefits;

and the following enrolled bill and joint resolution on Wednesday, December 3, 2003:

H.R. 2297, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 63, to approve the Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and to appropriate funds to carry out the amended compacts;

and the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Saturday, December 6, 2003:

H.R. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare program, to modernize the Medicare program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to individuals for amounts contributed to health savings security accounts and health savings accounts, to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and for other purposes.

CONGRATULATING THE ELDER FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, on the blustery evening of November 29, 2003, the Elder High School football team won their second consecutive Ohio